

The following Listing of the Claims will replace all prior versions and all prior listings of the claims in the present application:

Listing of The Claims:

- 1-7. (Cancelled)
8. (New) A device for the collection of a cervical sample that includes few or no endocervical cells, wherein said device comprises a collection element, said collection element further comprising a brush and an inner tube.
9. (New) The device of claim 8, wherein said brush is attached to said inner tube.
10. (New) The device of claim 9, wherein said device further comprises a shield in the form of an outer tube that surrounds said collection element.
11. (New) The device of claim 8, wherein said brush has a longitudinal axis that runs parallel to a longitudinal axis of said inner tube, and wherein said brush comprises bristles that are substantially perpendicular to said longitudinal axis of said brush.
12. (New) The device of claim 10, wherein said inner tube element and said outer tube are cylindrical in shape, and wherein the length of said inner tube and said outer tube are roughly equal.
13. (New) The device of claim 12, wherein said length of said inner tube and the length of said outer tube each range from 10 cm to 16 cm.
14. (New) The device of claim 11, wherein said bristles have a length ranging from about 1 cm to 3 cm, and wherein the diameter of the portion of the brush comprising the bristles has a length ranging from about 0.9 cm to 2.0 cm, with a smaller diameter at the tip of the brush.
15. (New) The device of claim 11, wherein said bristles comprise a flexible material selected from the group consisting of: polyethylene, polyurethane, polyvinyl chloride, polysiloxanes and nylon.
16. (New) The device of claim 8, further comprising a means to extend said brush from said inner tube.

17. (New) The device of claim 16, further comprising a means to maintain the bristle portion of said collection element inside said inner tube.
18. (New) The device of claim 10, wherein said outer tube has a length selected from the group consisting of a length equal to or shorter than that of said brush.
19. (New) The device of claim 8, wherein said device does not use an absorbent material to collect the sample.
20. (New) A kit for detecting the presence of human papilloma virus (HPV) in a cervical sample that includes few or no endocervical cells comprising the device of claim 8.
21. (New) The kit of claim 20, further comprising instructions for use and packaging materials.
22. (New) The kit of claim 20, further comprising reagents for processing and detecting the presence of HPV protein.
23. (New) The kit of claim 22, wherein said reagents comprise a first antibody which specifically binds to HPV, a second antibody which binds said first antibody, and enzymes for HPV immunoassays.
24. (New) The kit of claim 23, wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.
25. (New) A method for detecting the presence of human papilloma virus (HPV) in a vaginal specimen, wherein said specimen contains cervical cells and few or no endocervical cells, said method comprising: (a) obtaining said vaginal specimen through the use of the device wherein said device comprises a collection element, said collection element further comprising a brush; and an inner tube, (b) detecting the presence of HPV in the specimen.
26. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein said brush is attached to said inner tube
27. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein said device further comprises a shield in the form of an outer tube that surrounds said collection element.
28. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the step of detecting the presence of HPV in said specimen comprises (a) extracting DNA from the specimen, and (b) detecting the presence of the HPV DNA in the specimen.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the step of detecting the presence of HPV in said specimen comprises amplification of HPV nucleic acid.
30. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the step of detecting the presence of HPV comprises (a) contacting the specimen with a first polypeptide that binds to an HPV protein; and (b) detecting the presence of the HPV protein in the specimen.
31. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein said first polypeptide is an HPV specific antibody.
32. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the step of detecting the presence of the HPV protein in the sample comprises (a) contacting the specimen with a second polypeptide which binds to said HPV specific antibody; and (b) detecting the presence of said HPV specific antibody bound to said HPV protein in the specimen.
33. (New) A method for detecting the presence of human papilloma virus (HPV) in a vaginal specimen of a patient, the method comprising: (a) obtaining the vaginal specimen by self-collection by the patient through the use of the device of claim 8, wherein the specimen contains few or no endocervical cells; and (b) assaying the specimen for the presence of HPV.
34. (New) The method of any one of claims 25 and 33, wherein the HPV is high risk HPV (hrHPV).